

To: Anita Bilbao[abilbao@blm.gov]
Cc: Laura Brown[laura.brown@sol.doi.gov]; Aaron Moody[aaron.moody@sol.doi.gov]; Ryan Sklar[ryan.sklar@sol.doi.gov]; Edwin Roberson[eroberso@blm.gov]; Michael Richardson[mjrichardson@blm.gov]; Tyler Ashcroft[tashcrof@blm.gov]
From: Hanson, Joshua
Sent: 2017-12-21T15:20:41-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: Communication Plans and New Releases for Review
Received: 2017-12-21T15:21:34-05:00
[BLM Utah NewsRelease NOI GSENM - DOJ DLR edits.docx](#)
[GSENM CommPlan FRN 12-19-2017 - DOJ DLR edits.docx](#)
[NOI EC KP GS KFO RMP 12.19.2017 - DOJ DLR edits.docx](#)

Anita,
Attached are the Grand Staircase documents with DLR and DOJ edits.

Josh

On Mon, Dec 18, 2017 at 3:34 PM, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov> wrote:

FYI attached are draft updated comms plans and press releases BLM UT has shared w WO600 for their review. When we have clarification re USFS we will route updated materials through SOL for final review.

Anita

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Richardson, Michael" <mjrichardson@blm.gov>
Date: December 18, 2017 at 1:26:07 PM MST
To: Jeff Krauss <jkrauss@blm.gov>, Daniel DuBray <ddubray@blm.gov>
Cc: Edwin Roberson <eroberso@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>
Subject: Communication Plans and New Releases for Review

Dan/Jeff,
Attached are the most updated communication plans and news releases for your review. We will have to update and resend through SOL once we have the USFS decision. Feel free to call with questions. Thanks--Mike

--

Michael J. Richardson
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management Utah
Communications Director

Office- 801-539-4020

Cell- 385-315-5988

Fax- 801-539-4013

*I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in order. ~
John Burroughs*

--

Joshua F. Hanson

Branch of Public Land

Division of Land Resources

U. S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street, N.W., Rm. 6420

Washington, D.C. 20240

Phone: (202)208 3463

Email: joshua.hanson@sol.doi.gov

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News Release

Utah State Office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Jan XX, 2018

Media Contact: Michael Richardson
(801) 539-4020

BLM seeks public input in advance of land use planning process for Grand Staircase-Escalante region

SALT LAKE CITY—The Bureau of Land Management Utah State Office is seeking public input in advance of preparing land use plans for Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and other Federal lands previously included in the monument that were excluded from the boundaries by Presidential Proclamation 9682. These planning efforts, as required by Proclamation 9682, are an opportunity to enhance our relationships with the State of Utah and local communities and to fulfill our trust responsibilities to tribal communities. The BLM will develop these land use plans using an improved and streamlined environmental analysis process that will provide meaningful and inclusive public engagement as part of the preparation of land use plans in order to support priority initiatives such as sustaining multiple-uses consistent with the care and protection of objects of historic and scientific interest within the national monument.

The publication of the *Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the Boundaries and Associated Environmental Impact Statement* in the Federal Register today initiated the public scoping period for the land use planning process. The BLM will accept comments for at least 60 days, or for 15 days after the last scheduled public scoping meeting, whichever is later.

The new land use plans will provide clarity for the public on how they can enjoy and use public lands within the monument. The land use plans will also determine how public lands outside the monument will be managed, according to other relevant laws and resource considerations.

The BLM welcomes input from the public, which the agency will consider prior to developing alternatives for the land use plan. The public is encouraged to help identify issues, management questions, or concerns that should be addressed in the land use plans. Future public scoping meetings will also provide an opportunity to speak with resource specialists and submit written comments in person.

Issues identified for analysis in the planning efforts include paleontology, geology, cultural and historic resources, travel management, livestock grazing, and vegetation and fire management, outdoor recreation, visual resource management, wildlife resources, and air quality.

(b)(5) DPP (b)(5) ACP (b)(5) AWP

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The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. The agency will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

Comments may be submitted by using any of the following methods:

- (b)(5) DPP [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. BLM will not consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations and businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety.

For further information concerning the land use planning process, (b)(5) DPP [REDACTED]. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated \$75 billion in sales of goods and services throughout the American economy in fiscal year 2016—more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 372,000 jobs.

-BLM-

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Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the Boundaries and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

Communication Plan

December 2017

INTRODUCTION

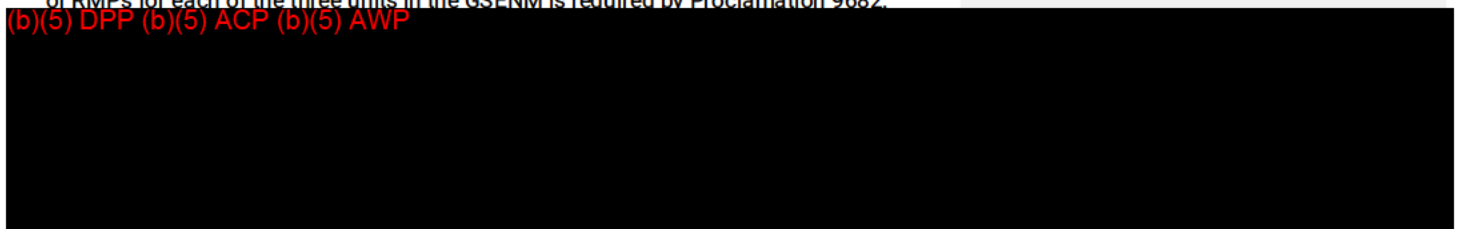
The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) and Kanab Field Office (KFO) are publishing a Notice of Intent (NOI) that the BLM GSENM and Kanab Field Office, Kanab, Utah, intend to prepare four Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and one associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the GSENM-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units, and Federal lands previously included in the Monument that were excluded from the GSENM boundaries by Proclamation 6920. These lands are located in Garfield and Kane Counties, Utah.

These RMPs are necessary to implement Presidential Proclamation 6920, which established the monument, and Presidential Proclamation 9682, which modified the boundaries of GSENM and clarified and modified certain management provisions in Proclamation 6920 for lands within the monument.

BACKGROUND

The GSENM was originally established by Proclamation 6920 of September 18, 1996. The original designation encompassed approximately 1.7 acres of Federal land. On December 4, 2017, President Trump issued Proclamation 9682 modifying the GSENM. The modified boundaries of the GSENM exclude from designation and reservation approximately 861,974 acres of land. Lands that remain part of the GSENM are included in three units, known as the Grand Staircase (209,993 acres), Kaiparowits (551,034 acres), and Escalante Canyons (242,836 acres) units of the monument. The preparation of RMPs for each of the three units in the GSENM is required by Proclamation 9682.

(b)(5) DPP (b)(5) ACP (b)(5) AWP



Preliminary planning criteria include:

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- 1) The public planning process for the RMPs will be guided by Presidential Proclamation 6920 as modified by Proclamation 9682, in addition to FLPMA and NEPA.
- 2) Federal lands excluded from the monument boundaries will remain in Federal ownership and will be managed by the BLM under applicable laws.
- 3) The BLM will use current scientific information, and results of inventory, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate management.
- 4) The BLM will strive for consistent management decisions with other adjoining planning jurisdictions, both Federal and non-Federal.
- 5) Decisions made in the planning process will only apply to public lands and, where appropriate, split-estate lands where the subsurface mineral estate is managed by the BLM.
- 6) Existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will continue to be managed to prevent impairment and ensure continued suitability for designation as wilderness. Should Congress release all or part of a WSA from wilderness study, resource management will be determined by preparing an amendment to the RMPs.
- 7) A baseline reasonably foreseeable development scenario will be developed for oil and gas and other mineral resources for Federal lands previously included in the GSENM that are excluded from the monument boundaries.
- 8) The BLM will consider changes to the off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, closed, limited) approved through the 1999 GSENM Management Plan. Implementation-level travel and transportation management planning (route designations) will be deferred until after the RMPs are completed.
- 9) The public is invited to nominate or recommend areas on public lands that are excluded from the modified monument boundaries as potentially new special management areas, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), as a part of this planning process (BLM Manual 1613.3.31). The BLM will use the criteria found at 43 CFR 1610.7-2 in considering designation of new ACECs.
- 10) Parties interested in leasing and development of Federal coal in areas that are excluded from the monument should provide coal resource data for their area(s) of interest. Specifically, information is requested on surface resource values related to the 20 coal unsuitability criteria described at 43 CFR part 3461. This information will be used for any necessary updating of coal screening determinations (43 CFR 3420.1-4) and in the environmental analysis, completion of which would be necessary before any proposal to lease or develop Federal coal in such areas.

KEY MESSAGES

1. Public input is key to sound decision-making. Public involvement will be welcomed in future land use planning and NEPA analyses as the agencies

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implement Presidential Proclamation 6920 as modified by the Proclamation 9682. The BLM appreciates the time and effort people take in providing comments, as inclusion is vital to managing sustainable, working public lands.

2. The existing GSENM Management Plan remains in effect until new plans are developed. Pending the RMP planning process and implementation-level travel and transportation management planning, actions taken by BLM in the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons Units, as well as the Federal lands excluded from the GSENM by Proclamation 9682 will continue to conform to the 1999 Monument Management Plan until such plan is modified through this or another planning process.
3. The new land use plans will provide clarity for the public and permittees on how they can enjoy and use public lands within the monument. One of the land use plans will also clearly describe how public lands outside the monument will be managed, according to other relevant laws and resource considerations.
4. Any public lands outside of the revised monument boundaries will remain in the stewardship of BLM. BLM lands and will be managed according to all relevant laws including but not limited to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Paleontological Resources Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

TALKING POINTS

- Proclamation 9682 modifies the boundaries and management of the GSENM to the smallest area compatible with the protection of important objects of historic or scientific significance.
- The scoping period will be open for 60 days or until 15 days after the last scheduled public meeting, whichever is later. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 60-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later.
- The BLM encourages public participation in the planning process. BLM will incorporate comments received during public scoping and work cooperatively with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments to formulate an appropriate range of alternatives.
- The Trump Administration is ensuring public lands are for public use and enjoyment, not to be closed off and set aside for special interests.
- In a continuing effort to Make America Safe through Energy Independence, the Trump Administration also prioritizes the completion of new planning efforts to

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maximize lands available for energy and minerals development, consistent with the laws and management plans that apply to these lands. The coal reserves on the Kaiparowits Plateau offer economic opportunities for local communities, and the Administration supports development of American coal resources, where feasible and appropriate. A Coal Suitability Study for lands excluded from the monument will be completed in advance of the land use planning effort.

- We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

COMMUNICATION GOALS

- Ensure the public is notified of the intent to develop new land use plans and an associated EIS;
- Encourage public participation in the land use planning process;
- Educate external stakeholders and media representatives about land use plan goals and processes;
- Ensure the public is aware of how they can participate in the process and submit comments regarding the land use plans;
- Ensure BLM-Utah is prepared to respond to media inquiries with one voice and a consistent message.

COMMUNICATION TACTICS

- Publish NOI in *Federal Register*.
- Post any relevant documents on BLM's NEPA Register (ePlanning) with instructions on how to provide comments.
- Promote information about the scoping period using various methods, such as: news releases, informational fliers, website postings, and public mailings.
- Contact, meet and/or conference with target audiences identified during the plan amendment process. See "Target Audiences" section.
- Share messages on social media.
- Mail public notification letter to stakeholders and interested individuals on project mailing list developed and updated during the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan Amendment for Livestock Grazing process.

SOCIAL MEDIA

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The goal for social media will be to make people aware of opportunities to provide comments and attend scoping meetings. The social media manager will develop a series of tweets to highlight upcoming milestones in the planning process.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(b)(5) DPP

[REDACTED]

(b)(5) DPP (b)(5) ACP (b)(5) AWP

[REDACTED]

(b)(5) DPP

[REDACTED]

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(b)(5) DPP

ADDRESSES:

(b)(5)

DPP

ROLLOUT SCHEDULE

| Date | Action | Responsibility |
|------------|---|------------------------------------|
| (b)(5) DPP | Set public meeting dates, times, locations | UTSO Public Affairs/GSENM |
| | Week Ahead for WO | UTSO Public Affairs/GSENM |
| | Confirm inbox ready to receive comments | GSENM |
| | Finalize news release and coordinate with all appropriate State/District/Field Office and Washington Office (WO)/National Program Office managers, staff, and specialists | UTSO Public Affairs |
| | Call or email Governor's office/PLPCO | UTSO state director |
| | Call Congressional district and Senate staff | WO Kim Finch (DC) GSENM Manager |

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(b)(5) DPP

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|--|--|--------------------------------|
| | Call or email Kane and Garfield County representatives | GSENM Manager |
| | Post news release to BLM-Utah website | Webmaster/social media manager |
| | Email news release to media, adjacent landowners, and stakeholders | UTSO and GSENM PAO |
| | Share on Facebook and Twitter | Webmaster/social media manager |

TARGET AUDIENCES:

Outreach will continue with the following stakeholders, who were identified during the GSENM Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment/EIS process. Specific contacts are provided in the following tables. Primary contacts include:

- Congressional officials
- State Agencies: Governor, Public Land Policy Coordination Office
- Local government agencies: Garfield and Kane counties
- Other federal agencies: National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.
- Tribes: Hopi, Zuni, Navajo, Kaibab Paiute, Paiute Tribes of Utah, San Juan Paiute, and Ute.
- Local communities (Kanab, Escalante, Big Water, Cannonville, Boulder, Glendale)
- Recreationists (backpacking, hiking, mountain biking, rock art/archaeology/paleontology groups, OHV users)
- Special interest groups/Nonprofit organizations: Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners, Glen Canyon Natural History Association, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, The Grand Canyon Trust, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, etc.
- Industry energy, grazing, mining
- Local law enforcement agencies
- Cultural resources preservation organizations
- Private landowners adjacent to or near planning area boundaries
- GSENM Monument Advisory Council
- General media for Salt Lake City and Kanab/Escalante area
- General public (via project mailing list)

*Internal Working Document***Congressional**

| Group | Contact | Contact phone/email | Responsible Party |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sen. Orrin Hatch | Romel Nicholas | romel_nicholas@hatch.senate.gov | WO Legislative Affairs |
| Sen. Orrin Hatch | Ron Dean, Utah Office | ron_dean@hatch.senate.gov | UTSO Public Affairs |
| Sen. Mike Lee | Heath Hansen | heath_hansen@lee.senate.gov | WO Legislative Affairs |
| Sen. Mike Lee | Robert Axson, Utah Office | robert_axson@lee.senate.gov | UTSO Public Affairs |
| Rep. Rob Bishop | Adam Stewart | adam.stewart@mail.house.gov | WO Legislative Affairs |
| Rep. Chris Stewart | Cam Madsen | cam.madsen@mail.house.gov | WO Legislative Affairs |
| Rep. John Curtis | Ryan Leavitt | ryan.leavitt@mail.house.gov | WO Legislative Affairs |
| Rep. Mia Love | Joshua Satterfield | joshua.satterfield@mail.house.gov | WO Legislative Affairs |
| Rep. Mia Love | Laurel Price, Utah Office | laurel.price@mail.house.gov | UTSO Public Affairs |

Media

| Group | Contact | Contact Info | Responsible |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---|
| Statewide media list | Various | Various | UTSO Public Affairs email statewide media list |

Utah State Government

| Group | Contact | Contact Info | Responsible |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Utah State | Cody Stewart | Phone: (801) 538-8802 | |

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| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------------|
| Government | | Email: codystewart@utah.gov | |
| Liaison to BLM | Carmen Bailey | Email: carmenbailey@utah.gov | UTSO Public Affairs |
| PLPCO | Kathleen Clarke | Phone: (801) 538-7107 Email: kathleenclarke@utah.gov | UTSO Public Affairs |
| State Historic Preservation Office | Chris Merritt | Email: cmerritt@utah.gov | UTSO Public Affairs |

Local Government/Representatives

| Group | Contact | Contact Info | Responsible |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| Garfield County | Commissioner Leland Pollock | Phone: 435-676-2718 Email: (b) (6) @hotmail.com | GSENM |
| Kane County | Commissioner Dirk Clayson | Phone: 435-616-1234 Email: dirk@kanab.net | |
| Utah State Legislature | Rep. Mike Noel | Phone: 801-647-8853 Email: mnoel@kanab.net | |

Tribes

| Group | Contact | Contact Info | Responsible |
|---|----------------------|--|-------------|
| Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah Cultural Resources Department | Ms. Dorens Martineau | 440 North Paiute Drive Cedar City, UT 84720 | |
| U e Cultural Rights and Protection | Ms. Betsy Chapoose | PO Box 190 Fort Duchesne, UT 84026 | |
| Kaibab Pauite | Roland Maldonado | HC 65 Box 2 Pipe Spring, AZ 86022 | |

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| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Hopi Cultural Rights and Protection | Mr. Leigh Kuwanwisiwma | PO Box 123 Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039 | |
| Zuni Cultural Resources Pueblo of Zuni | Johathan Damp | P.O. Box 339 Zuni, NM 87327 | |
| Navajo Nation | Tamara Billie, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer | P.O. Box 4950 Window Rock, AZ 86515 | |

National Park Service

| Group | Contact | Contact Info | Responsible Party |
|---|--|--|-------------------|
| NPS, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area | Billy Shott Superintendent | Phone: 928-608-6205 Fax: 928-608-6204 Email: billy_shott@nps.gov | GSENM |
| NPS, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area | Erin Janicki Chief of Planning and Compliance | Phone: 928-608-6205 Fax: 928-608-6204 Email: erin_Janicki@nps.gov | GSENM |

Environmental/Conservation

| Group | Contact | Contact Info | Responsible |
|------------------------|----------------|--|-------------|
| The Wilderness Society | Phil Hanceford | Phone: 303-650-5818 ext 122 Email: phil_hanceford@twss.org | GSENM |
| Grand Canyon Trust | Mary O'Brien | Phone: 435-259-6205 Email: (b) (6) @gmail.com | GSENM |

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| | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------|
| Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance | Neal Clark, Field Attorney | Phone: 435-259-7090 Email: neal@suwa.org | GSENM |
| Western Watersheds Project | Jonathan Ratner | Phone: 877-746-3628 Office: 801-328-3550 Email: jonathan@westernwatersheds.org | GSENM |
| Western Watersheds Project | Laura Welp | Phone: 435-644-8129 Email: laura@westernwatersheds.org | GSENM |
| Wild Utah | Jim Catlin | Phone: 801-389-1639 Email: jim@wildutahproject.org | GSENM |
| Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners | Sherry Robinson | 310 S. 100 E. #7 Kanab UT 84741 435 644-3734 nicole@gsenm.org | |
| Great Old Broads for Wilderness | | P.O. Box 2924 Durango, CO 81302 | |

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[insert billing code]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[insert Agency docket number]

Notice of Intent to Prepare Resource Management Plans for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units and Federal Lands previously included in the Monument that are excluded from the Boundaries and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), and Presidential Proclamation 6920 as modified by Proclamation 9682, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (GSENM) and Kanab Field Office, Kanab, Utah, intend to prepare Resource Management Plans (RMPs) for the GSENM-Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units, and Federal lands previously included in the Monument that were excluded from the boundaries by Proclamation 9682. The BLM will prepare a single Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to satisfy the NEPA requirements for these RMPs. By this notice, the BLM is announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMPs will replace the existing Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Management Plan (the “1999 Monument Management Plan”), which was completed in 1999.

DATES: This notice initiates the public scoping process for the RMPs and associated EIS. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM website at: <https://www.blm.gov/utah>. In order to be considered in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 60-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EIS.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria related to the planning process by any of the following methods:

- Website: *[insert full URL]*
- Mail: 669 S Hwy 89A Kanab, UT 84741

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the GSENM and the BLM Kanab Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: *[insert contact]*, *[insert contact title]*, telephone (435) 644-1200; address 669 S Hwy 89A Kanab, UT 84741; email BLM_UT_CCD_monuments@blm.gov. Contact *[insert contact]* to add your name to our mailing list. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-800-877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM GSENM and Kanab Field Office, Kanab, Utah, intend to prepare RMPs for the GSENM-

Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyon Units, and Federal lands previously included in the GSENM that are excluded the boundaries by Proclamation 9682. The BLM will prepare a single EIS for this planning process. This document announces the beginning of the scoping process, and seeks public input on issues and planning criteria. The planning area is located in Kane and Garfield Counties, Utah and encompasses approximately 1.87 million acres of public land.

On December 4, 2017, President Donald Trump signed Presidential Proclamation 9682 modifying the boundaries of the GSENM as established by Proclamation 6920 to exclude from designation and reservation approximately 861,974 acres of land. Lands that remain part of the GSENM are included in three units, known as the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons units of the monument and are reserved for the care and management of the objects of historic and scientific interest described in Proclamation 6920 as modified by Proclamation 9682. Pending the RMP planning process and implementation-level travel and transportation management planning, actions taken by BLM in the Grand Staircase, Kaiparowits, and Escalante Canyons Units, as well as the Federal lands excluded from the GSENM by Proclamation 9682 will continue to conform to the 1999 Monument Management Plan until such plan is modified through this or another planning process.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will inform the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. Preliminary issues for the planning area have been identified by BLM personnel; Federal, State, and local agencies; and other stakeholders. These preliminary issues include paleontology, geology, cultural and historic resources, travel management,

livestock grazing, and vegetation and fire management, outdoor recreation, visual resource management, wildlife resources, and air quality. Preliminary planning criteria include: 1) The public planning process for the RMPs will be guided by Presidential Proclamation 6920 as modified by Proclamation 9682 in addition to FLPMA and NEPA. 2) Those Federal lands excluded from the Monument will remain in Federal ownership and will be managed by the BLM under applicable laws. 3) The BLM will use current scientific information, and results of inventory, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate management. 4) The BLM will strive for consistency of management decisions with other adjoining planning jurisdictions, both Federal and non-Federal. 5) Decisions made in the planning process will only apply to Federal lands and, where appropriate, to split-estate lands where the subsurface mineral estate is managed by the BLM. 6) Existing Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) will continue to be managed to prevent impairment and ensure continued suitability for designation as wilderness. Should Congress release all or part of a WSA from wilderness study, resource management will be determined by preparing an amendment to the RMPs. 7) A baseline reasonably foreseeable development scenario will be developed for oil and gas and other mineral resources for Federal lands previously included in the GSENM that are now excluded from the monument boundaries. 8) The BLM will consider changes to the off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations (open, closed, limited) approved through the 1999 Monument Management Plan for GSENM. Implementation-level travel and transportation management planning (route designations) will be deferred until after the RMPs are completed. 9) The public is invited to nominate or recommend areas on public lands that are excluded from the modified monument boundaries as potentially new

special management areas, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), as a part of this planning process (BLM Manual 1613.3.31). The BLM will use the criteria found at 43 CFR 1610.7–2 in considering designation of new ACECs. 10) Parties interested in leasing and development of Federal coal in areas that are excluded from the monument should provide coal resource data for their area(s) of interest. Specifically, information is requested on surface resource values related to the 20 coal unsuitability criteria described at 43 CFR part 3461. This information will be used for any necessary updating of coal screening determinations (43 CFR 3420.1–4) and in the environmental analysis, completion of which would be necessary before any proposal to lease or develop Federal coal in such areas.

You may submit comments on issues and planning criteria in writing to the BLM at any public scoping meeting, or you may submit them to the BLM using one of the methods listed in the “ADDRESSES” section above. To be most helpful, and to ensure inclusion in the Draft EIS, you should submit comments prior to the close of the 60-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. The BLM will evaluate identified issues to be addressed in the plans, and will place them into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plans;

2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action; or
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plans.

The BLM will provide an explanation in the Draft RMP/Draft EIS as to why an issue was placed in category two or three. The public is also encouraged to help identify any management questions and concerns that should be addressed in the plans. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns.

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA scoping process to help fulfill the public involvement process under the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). The information about historic and cultural resources within the area potentially affected by the proposed action will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Indian tribes on a government-to-government basis in accordance with Executive Order 13175 and other policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given full consideration consistent with these authorities and policies. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan in order to consider the variety of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the planning process: rangeland management,

minerals and geology, forestry, outdoor recreation, archaeology, paleontology, wildlife and fisheries, lands and realty, hydrology, soils, sociology and economics.

AUTHORITY: 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2

Edwin L. Roberson

State Director